Welcome to Story Station U, your local radio broadcast where campus life meets American headlines! I'm your host, Madilyn Becker, and I'll be breaking down the recent news that could change your weekend plans- or maybe your future!

As you probably know, today is election day! Election day news has already begun, and I'm here to break it all down.

Let's begin with coverage of each of your candidates; Democratic nominee, current Vice President, Kamala Harris, and Republican-nominee, former President Donald Trump. Both candidates, just as many Americans, have made their stances very clear on what this election means to them. Vice President Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic presidential nomination on August 5th, 2024, just over two weeks after current president, Joe Biden, announced that he was dropping out of the 2024 presidential race. Since launching her campaign, Harris has largely focused on abortion rights, making her plans to protect abortion access extremely explicit. Her presidential campaign has coined the phrase ''when we fight, we win'', with it being a popular refrain in her online campaign ads and during her campaign rallies. Shortly after Harris secured the Democratic nomination, her running mate was announced to be Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz. Walz, who is passionate about the protection of IVF infertility treatments and his support of anti-gun violence movements, has seemed to be the perfect match to Harris' pro-choice, pro-freedom campaign. According to PBS news, a large percentage of Americans had not heard of Tim Walz when he was announced as Kamala Harris' running mate, but overall, he had a more favorable status with the American people.

This would certainly fail to be an interesting election if Harris had no opponent, so let's talk about the Republican-nominee, former President Donald Trump. Two years ago, in November of 2022, the former President announced that he would seek re-election in the 2024 presidential race. During his campaign, improving the economy and increasing border security have been his top issues. He has consistently criticized the economy under the Biden-Harris administration. Donald Trump's campaign includes plans to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which would cut corporate tax rates and eliminate income taxes on Social Security benefits. Former President Trump has also made his stance on increasing border security incredibly clear, by claiming that illegal immigrants are bringing crime and disease into America. Trump's running mate, Ohio senator, James David Vance, better known as JD Vance, has faced questions from some voters. When Donald Trump first ran for president in 2016, JD Vance called him ''reprehensible''. Many Americans wonder what caused his sudden change in opinion of the former president. On election issues, JD Vance has said he is pro-life, a stark contrast to Harris and Walz's pro-choice campaign. He has also publicly agreed with Donald Trump on the fact that the 2020 election, in which current president Joe Biden beat Donald Trump, was not entirely fair.

It's time for our first live check of the poll's tonight! I'll be getting my numbers from 270towin.com's 2024 Presidential Election Polls and NBC News' live Decision 2024 updates. Currently, *candidate name* has a *percentage* lead over *other candidate name*. Kamala Harris is currently leading in New York. Every vote matters, including yours! There's still time to

vote in person. Polling sites close at 9pm! There are several polling locations in Geneseo and around Livingston County! The complete list is available on Livingston County's official website. There is also a voting center right on campus in the MacVittie College Union!

While we wait for more votes to roll in, I'm going to break down some key moments from this year's presidential debate.

First up: Harris calling attention to the hotly debated Project 2025. This is a document written and endorsed by many key figures in conservative American politics, including two former members of the Trump administration. The plan supports many of the former president's ideas, including restricted access to abortion, increased deportations and border security, and less federal agency involvement in Americans' lives. Project 2025 takes some far right stances, and has been endlessly criticized by Democrats. During the presidential debate, Harris asked Trump if he was elected, would he enact project 2025. Donald Trump responded by saying that he ''has nothing to do with'' Project 2025. This is not the first time Donald Trump has said he has no involvement with Project 2025. However, this remains an issue that Democrats, and many voters, have against the former president.

Our next key moment: Trump questioning Kamala Harris' readiness and preparedness to be president. He specifically called her out on her lack of original policy ideas. The former president accused her of stealing some of his own policy ideas, and preparing to copy current President Joe Biden's policies. Harris responded with clear, direct remarks, including "I have a plan" and "I am not Joe Biden".

Another moment to note: Harris making sure to clearly remind voters that she would restore Roe V Wade, and protect access to abortions. This has been an extremely present theme throughout the current Vice President's campaign, and things were no different during her first presidential debate performance.

One thing to note: Although Donald Trump's campaign has advocated against abortion, emergency contraceptive, and birth control access, the New York State constitution protects access to reproductive rights and healthcare.

Onto one last story from the debate, Trump made bold claims about how America is a ''failing nation'', referring to the numbers of illegal immigrants coming into the country, and that inflation has become excessive. Donald Trump's statements about immigration made headlines after the election, with many saying he took a too extreme stance. However, inflation is rising; according to Bankrate ''the current annual inflation rate is 2.4%". This level of inflation has not been seen since February of 2021.

Before we continue with election coverage, let's break for a short PSA brought to you by WGSU!

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Jumping right back into our show tonight with Fun Fact time! The first presidential debate was held in 1960 between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. There were four debates that year; every election since then has had two or three debates. However, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris only debated once. According to the New York Times, Kamala Harris did accept the invitation from CNN for a second debate, but Donald Trump rejected the invitation.

Back to the news, but first, another check of the polls! Currently, *candidate name* is leading *other candidate name* by *percentage*. This election is proving to be a close one! Let's look at some historically close presidential elections. In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the popular vote by 120,000 votes out of the total 68.8 million votes casted. The 2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush was one of the closest and most contested elections in our history. Al Gore even asked for a recount of votes in Florida. Legal challenges brought this election to the Supreme Court, who denied Gore's request, and led to Bush winning the election. George W. Bush won the electoral college with 271 electoral votes, compared to Al Gore's 266 electoral votes.

Now back to 2024! CNN data analysts are predicting that swing states will play a crucial role in this election. A swing state is a state that does not vote historically in favor of one party; they vote more democratic or more republican depending on the election. CNN's Harry Enten says that the winners in six swing states, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Arizona, will likely be able to predict which candidate will ultimately secure this election.

Moving onto our next Election Day headline: security fencing has been placed around the White House and Kamala Harris' home in Washington, D.C., according to CBS News. ''Extra physical security measures'' are also being placed around the Palm Beach County Convention Center where Donald Trump is set to hold his campaign party tonight, according to NPR. lPolice officers have said that there is no current threat to Washington, but D.C. residents can't help but be reminded of the violent January 6th, 2020 attack on the capitol after Donald Trump lost the election to current president Joe Biden.

Let's examine this year's possible election outcomes, according to New York Times. With Democratic candidate Kamala Harris battling against a low approval rating for the current Democratic president, Joe Biden, and Donald Trump facing his recent felony convictions, this hasn't been an easy campaign trail for either candidate. One outcome the New York Times is predicting is Kamala Harris winning big. She would make history as America's first female president. The Democratic party has gained a favorable view in many voter's eyes since the January 6th attack on the capitol building, and the party has performed well in midterm elections since 2020. This positive performance for Democrats could very well carry into the presidential election. Another possible outcome is former president Donald Trump returning to the White House- by a very slight margin. The 2020 election was so close in the electoral college that even a slight change in voting patterns could mean a Trump victory. Kamala Harris is said to

need to win at least one of three states, Georgia, Arizona, and Wisconsin, in order to win this election.

The next possible outcome: Kamala Harris winning by a slight margin. This election is shaping up to be even closer than the last election in 2020, between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Battleground states are set to decide this election, and the current vice president is counting on voters to put aside their frustrations with the current Democratic president, and vote for her. The last possible outcome of this election is Donald Trump winning big. He would be the first president to serve two, non-consecutive terms since Grover Cleveland in 1884 and 1892. In key battleground states, Pennsylvania, Nevada, North Carolina, and Arizona, there are predicted to be more registered Republicans than Democrats- and this is seeming to be a high-turnout election.

Before I end tonight's show, I will leave you with some Election Day mindfulness reminders! If you're feeling stressed about this election, don't keep yourself isolated. Call a friend, or go be with someone in person if you can. Take some time to de-stress and do something you enjoy. For SUNY Geneseo students, Myko the Therapy Dog will be in the union tomorrow from 2-4pm, and on Thursday, Michelle the Therapy Dog will be in the library from 1-2pm. It doesn't stop there! End your week on a positive note with Post-Election Mindful Yoga on Friday at 12:30 in the Schrader Dance Studio!

As a reminder, Livingston County polls, including the poll in Suny Geneseo's student union are open until 9pm. You still have time to vote!

Before the end of tonight's show, I have one more PSA!

The American Red Cross has a high need for blood and will be hosting a blood drive at **SUNY Geneseo's MacVittie College Union, on** Wednesday November 13th from twelve o'clock P-M to five o'clock P-M. Appointments are required and you can sign up online at red cross blood dot O-R-G. Donors will receive a **$10 gift card** and will be entered for a chance to **win a $7,000 gift card!**

Thank you for listening to Story Station U! Stay informed, go impress your friends with all your new election knowledge, and tune in next Tuesday, same place, same time for your top headlines! I'm Madilyn Becker, and I wish everyone a very happy rest of their Election Day!